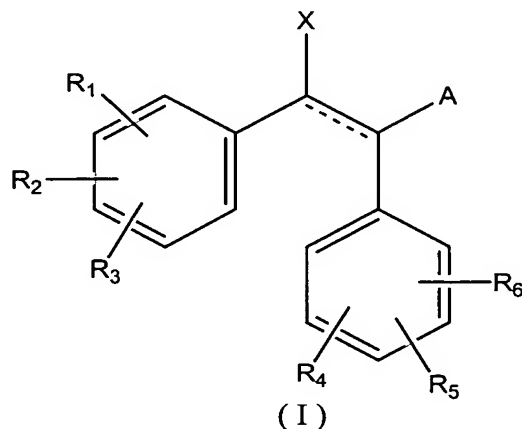


Amendments to the Claims:

The following claims will replace all prior versions of the claims in this application (in the unlikely event that no claims follow herein, the previously pending claims will remain):

1. (Currently amended) A compound of the formula 1:



wherein the bond represented by the dotted line may be an optional double bond, and the geometry across the bond may be E or Z;

A = -COOR, -CONR'R'', -CN, or -COR₇ wherein R, R', R'' and R₇ are defined below;

X = H, OH, or ~~C₁-C₁₀~~ C₂-C₁₀ linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl ~~groups~~ group, optionally substituted with COOR, carbonyl, or halo;

R = H or C₁-C₂₀ linear or branched alkyl or aryl or aralkyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, R₆, and R₇ are independently H; C₁-C₂₀ linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl groups optionally substituted; COOR where R is as defined previously; NR'R'' or CONR'R'', where R' and R'' may be independently H or C₁-C₂₀ linear or branched alkyl or aryl; OH; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxycarbonyl; halo; NO₂; SO₂R'''; CZ₃, where each Z is independently a halo atom, H, alkyl, chloro or fluoro-substituted alkyl; or SR''', where R''' may be H or linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; or R₂ and R₃ together, or R₅ and R₆ together may be joined to form methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy ~~groups;~~ groups.

~~with the proviso that when X, R₃, R₅, and R₆ are H, R₄ is p-hydroxy; R₁ and R₂ together are 3,5-dimethoxy; then the dotted line is not a double bond in the E configuration.~~

2. (Original) A compound according to claim 1 wherein A= -COOR.
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Currently amended) A compound according to claim 1, wherein A= ~~COOR~~, X, A = -COOR; R₃, R₅ and R₆ are H; R₄ is p-hydroxy; and R₁ R₂ together are 3,5-dimethoxy; ~~and the dotted line is a double bond in the Z configuration.~~ 3,5-dimethoxy.
5. (Original) A compound according to claim 4, wherein R is H.
6. (Original) A compound according to claim 4, wherein R is Na⁺.
7. (Original) A compound according to claim 2, wherein R₄ is p-hydroxy; R₁ and R₂ together are 3,5-dimethoxy and the dotted line represents a double bond.
8. (Cancelled).
9. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of diabetes comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of ~~any one of the claims~~ claim 1 to 8, or mixtures thereof, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
10. (Original) A composition according to claim 9 which is suitable for oral administration.
11. (Cancelled).
12. (Cancelled).

13. (Currently amended) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of diabetes comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to ~~any of~~ claims claim 1 ~~to 8~~ in a physiologically acceptable carrier, wherein the bond represented by the dotted line may be an optional double bond, and the geometry across the bond may be E or Z; R = H, linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl, aryl or aralkyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion.

14. (Original) A composition according to claim 13, wherein R is H or Na⁺ and said double bond is in the E-configuration.

15. (Original) A composition according to claim 13, wherein R is H or Na⁺ and said double bond is in the Z-configuration.

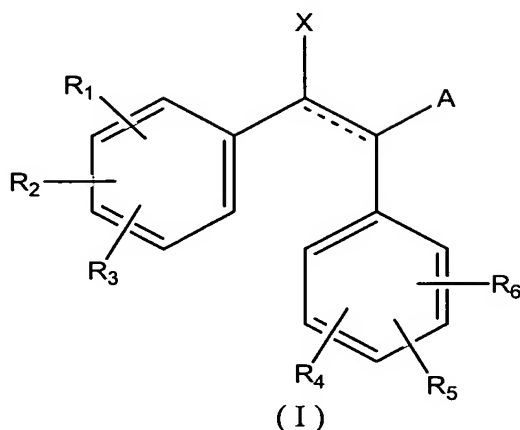
16. (Original) A composition according to claim 15, wherein R is Na⁺.

17. (Original) A composition according to claim 14, wherein R is Na⁺.

18. (Original) A composition according to claim 13, wherein said composition is suitable for oral administration.

19-23. (Cancelled).

24. (New) A compound of the formula 1:



wherein the bond represented by the dotted line may be an optional double bond, and the geometry across the bond may be E or Z;

A = -COOR₈ or -CONR'R'', wherein R₈ is C₁-C₂₀ linear or branched alkyl or aryl or arylalkyl, and R' and R'' are defined below;

X = H, OH, or C₁-C₁₀ linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl groups, optionally substituted with COOR, carbonyl, or halo, wherein R is H or C₁-C₂₀ linear or branched alkyl or aryl or aralkyl, or a pharmaceutically acceptable counter-ion;

R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅, and R₆ are independently H; C₁-C₂₀ linear or branched alkyl or alkenyl groups optionally substituted; COOR where R is as defined previously; NR'R'' or CONR'R'', where R' and R'' may be independently H or C₁-C₂₀ linear or branched alkyl or aryl; OH; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxy; C₁-C₂₀ acylamino; C₁-C₂₀ acyloxy; C₁-C₂₀ alkanoyl; C₁-C₂₀ alkoxycarbonyl; halo; NO₂; SO₂R'''; CZ₃, where each Z is independently a halo atom, H, alkyl, chloro or fluoro-substituted alkyl; or SR''', where R''' may be H or linear or branched C₁-C₂₀ alkyl; or R₂ and R₃ together, or R₅ and R₆ together may be joined to form methylenedioxy or ethylenedioxy groups.

25. (New) The compound of claim 24, wherein A is -CONR'R''.

26. (New) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of diabetes comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 24, or mixtures thereof, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

27. (New) A composition according to claim 25 which is suitable for oral administration.

28. (New) A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment of diabetes comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 27, or mixtures thereof, in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

29. (New) A composition according to claim 28 which is suitable for oral administration.